

Record Breaking March 2012 Summary

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March 2012 Highlights

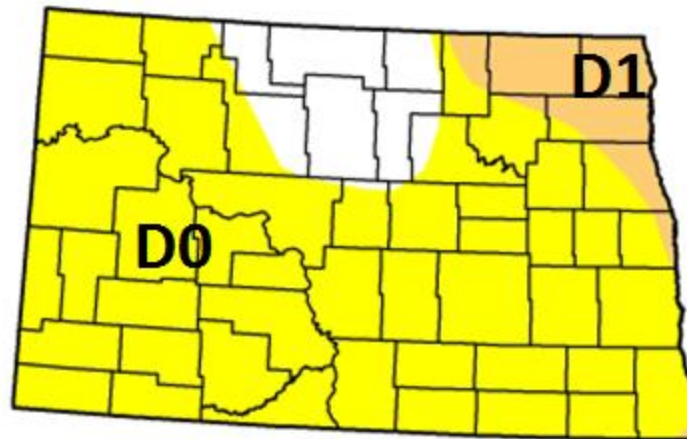
- Across western and central North Dakota
 - Record warmth
 - Below normal precipitation
 - Below normal snowfall

U.S. Drought Monitor

North Dakota

March 27, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, March 29, 2012
Eric Luebehusen, USDA

Bismarck (1875 – 2012)

- Six days with record high temperatures.
 - Tied the highest March Bismarck temperature ever recorded...81°F on the 16th.
- Three days with record warm low temperatures.
 - The warmest March Bismarck low temperature ever recorded...49°F on the 31st.
- The average temperature was 43.2°F, 13.2°F above normal.
 - Tied 1910 for the warmest March average temperature at Bismarck.
- Precipitation measured 0.53 inches, which was 61% of normal.
- Snowfall measured 0.5 inches, which was the 6th least snowy March on record at Bismarck.

Jamestown (1891 – 2012)

- Six days with record high temperatures.
- The average temperature was 41.2°F, 13.6°F above normal.
 - This ranks as the warmest March average temperature on record at Jamestown.
- Precipitation measured 0.42 inches, which was 50% of normal.
- Snowfall measured 5.3 inches, which was 83% of normal.

Minot (1905 – 2012)

- Seven days with record high temperatures.
- The average temperature was 41.5°F, 13.2°F above normal.
 - This ranks as the 2nd warmest March average temperature on record at Minot.
- Precipitation measured 0.73 inches, which was 87% of normal.
- Snowfall measured 1.0 inch, which was 16% of normal.

Williston (1894 – 2012)

- Four days with record high temperatures.
- Two days with record warm low temperatures.
- The average temperature was 41.2°F, 11.9°F above normal.
 - This ranks as the 2nd warmest March average temperature on record at Williston.
- Precipitation measured 0.10 inches, tied with 1968 for the 9th driest March on record at Williston.
- Snowfall measured 2.5 inches, which was 56% of normal.

Dickinson (1893 – 2012)

- Six days with record high temperatures.
- The average temperature was 43.8°F, 13.8°F above normal.
 - This ranks as the warmest March average temperature on record at Dickinson.
- Precipitation measured 0.04 inches, the 4th driest March on record at Dickinson.
- Snowfall data was missing at Dickinson this March.

Spring Freeze

- There is no relationship between warmth in March and the last Spring freeze date.
- If considering an early plant date be mindful that temperatures typically dip below freezing in North Dakota in May, and sometimes even in early June. Be ready – just in case.